

Local Work Group development of local EQIP.

Chisago

District FY09 EQIP

1. List the local resource concerns that EQIP can address:

Soil erosion, wildlife habitat, nutrient management, pest management, livestock management, soil quality, grazing, water quality, use exclusion, forest health improvement, invasive species control

2. If applicable, list any geographic regions (i.e. watersheds, townships, etc.) and their respective resource concerns within the District to receive priority:

North Branch of the Sunrise River – reduce fecal coliform, excess nutrients, reduce sediment loading

Lawrence Creek Watershed – reduce excess nutrients

Moody Lake – reduce excessive nutrients

Nessel Township – 4 corners of Kanabec, Isanti, Chisago, Pine counties

3. From items 1 & 2 above prioritize the local resource concerns to be addressed with EQIP funding for the district. Describe a minimum of 3 categories of the highest priority applications which you would want to receive funding.

Improving water quality via minimizing impact of livestock and nutrients on water sources is a big priority. Promoting use exclusion to water sources, minimizing the impacts of over-applying nutrients to farm fields, and reducing soil loss from agriculture lands are ways to minimize this impact.

Controlling the invasive species that are becoming more and more abundant on private lands is a very important priority to improve forest health in Chisago County. Buckthorn management needs to be encouraged on private lands or this species will take over healthy areas.

Increasing both upland and wetland wildlife habitat is also a huge on-going priority. Shoreland habitat, wetland restorations, and upland habitat enhancement practices can be established as stand alone practices or as extensions of current designated areas. There are areas established through DNR, USFWS, and lake districts that are designated as priority areas. EQIP funding can aid in meeting the goals for these areas as well as to address priority areas established through the local work group.

Develop a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 yes/no questions to determine if an application is addressing the high priority concerns described in item 3.

SOIL QUALITY – the application will reduce excess nutrients applied by using variable rate technology in farming operation 8 pts

WILDLIFE HABITAT – the application will improve wildlife habitat through riparian buffer or wetland restoration 8 pts

WATER QUALITY – the application will install practices that address fecal coliform bacteria, excess nutrients, and sediment loading in the North Branch of the Sunrise River, Lawrence Creek, Moody Lake, or St. Croix river basin. 8 pts

WILDLIFE HABITAT – the application will install a practice adjacent to existing county or state owned land 8 pts

FOREST HEALTH IMPROVEMENT – the application will improve forest health by controlling invasive species and/or creating wildlife openings in oak wilt infection sites 8 pts

4. Assign points to the questions in Item #4 as desired to reflect local priorities. The total points assigned to the questions must equal exactly 40 points.
5. Submit this worksheet to your respective ASTC(FO). After approval from the state office, the questions will be entered into the Local Issues section of the ranking tool.

The local EQIP program description, cost-share docket changes, and ranking worksheet must be reviewed and approved by the State Conservationist before any EQIP contract is approved and signed.

This document serves as the Local Work Group recommendation for FY 08 EQIP. Attached is a roster of participation in the Local Work Group.

Chair, Local Work Group	Date
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